

CLAIMS

1. A jigging device for maintaining a first element in spatial relationship to a second element, the device including a first fastening means for connection to the first element and a second fastening means for connection to the second element, at least one of the first and second fastening means including adjustment means for adjusting the spatial relationship between the first and second elements, the device also including locking means adapted to lock the first fastening means to the second fastening means.
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2. A jigging device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first element is a panel for a vehicle and the second element is part of a tubular frame therefor.
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3. A jigging device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the adjustment means is adapted to adjust the panel closer to or further away from the frame.
4. A jigging device as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein the adjustment means is adapted to adjust the panel so as to be closer to or further away from an adjacent panel.
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5. A jigging device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the first and second fastening means, the adjustment means and/or the locking means are adapted to be manipulated manually.
6. A jigging device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the locking means is adapted to be activated so as to be locked or unlocked remotely.
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7. A jigging device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the adjustment means is associated more with one fastening means than the other.
8. A jigging device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, which includes two adjustment means, a first adjustment means associated with the first fastening means and a second adjustment means associated with the second fastening means.
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9. A jigging device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, in which the fastening means is connected to the respective element by means chosen from the group consisting of: adhesive, a collar into which the fastening means is fitted, double-sided tape of suitable peel strength and moulding or forming the fastening means in or on the element.
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10. A jigging device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, in which the adjusting means includes a series of serrations or a screw thread, in each case adapted to be received in a complementary shape.
11. A jigging device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, in which the adjustment means includes first and second parts, one being able to slide into the other to permit adjustment.
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12. A jigging device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, which includes intelligent means adapted to enable automated adjustment of the first element relative to the second element.
- 10 13. A jigging device as claimed in claim 12, in which the intelligent means is capable of sensing an undesirable gap and of automatically activating the adjustment means to close the gap so that it falls within a preset tolerance.
14. A method for maintaining a first element in spatial relationship to a second element, the method including the steps of:
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 - i) connecting a first fastening means to the first element;
 - ii) connecting a second fastening means to the second element;
 - iii) adjusting the spatial relationship of the first element to the second element via adjustment means; and
 - iv) locking the first fastening means to the second fastening means.
- 20 15. The jigging method claimed in claim 14, which includes a further step of connecting the first element to the second element.
16. The jigging method claimed in claim 15, wherein the first element is connected to the second element by adhesion or welding.
- 25 17. The jigging method of claim 14, wherein steps (i) to (iii) are carried out in any order .
18. The jigging method of any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein the first element is a panel for a vehicle and the second element is part of a tubular frame therefor.

19. The jigging method claimed in any one of claims 14 to 18, wherein the step of locking the first fastening means to the second fastening means is carried out remotely.
20. The jigging method of any one of claims 14 to 19, wherein the step of adjusting the spatial relationship of the first element to the second element via adjustment means is carried out automatically.
21. A jigging method for maintaining a first element in spatial relationship to a second element, substantially as described, with reference to Figures 1 to 9 or 10 to 18 or 19 to 28 of the accompanying drawings.
22. A jigging device substantially as herein described with reference to any one of Figures 1 to 9 or 10 to 18 or 19 to 28 of the accompanying drawings.